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SUBJECT: SOMALIA: SOMALILAND ADMINISTRATION REQUESTS
ASSISTANCE

REF: NAIROBI 2527

1. On November 4, Embassy received a letter from the Somaliland Administration President (text below) that requests international community assistance in the wake of the three October 29 suicide bombings in Hargeisa (reftel). The letter solicits assistance in fighting terrorism, including tracking and interdicting currency flows that support it; institution building; technical assistance to intelligence and law enforcement agencies; and information exchange. Embassy has had difficulty in the days since the attacks in establishing telephone contact with appropriate counterparts in the Administration, but plans to explore requests in more detail at earliest opportunity. Text below:

Your Excellencies,

On Wednesday October 29, 2008, International Terrorism struck the heart and soul of our country, Somaliland. Using at least three suicide car bombs, violent extremists attacked our innocent citizens, the symbols of our democracy, the United Nations offices and other key targets in our capital city of Hargeisa. More than twenty innocent people of different nationalities were killed in these senseless terroristic attacks and dozens more were injured.

Despite its limited resources and capabilities, our government immediately responded to help the victims and quickly took all the necessary measures to thwart any further attempts to destabilize our peace and stability.

Clearly, the timing of these violent terroristic acts indicate that they were launched in order to disrupt and derail our on-going internationally observed National Voter Registration Process, a key democratic milestone achievement for our country. But we, the government and people of Somaliland, are determined not to allow the actions of these terrorist thugs to defeat our infant democracy and stop our desire and inspiration for peace and stability.

The tremendous outpouring of sympathy and solidarity from members of the International Community in our moment of national tragedy heartened our government and people. For this, Somaliland is deeply grateful. Indeed, our pain and tragedy is similar to the one inflicted upon the innocent citizens of Washington DC, New York City, London, Madrid, Bali and many other cities that fell victim to the violence perpetrated by the same violent extremists.

It is, therefore, the conviction of the Government of Somaliland that the threat of International Terrorism should be addressed with full participation of all peace loving nations through effective international, regional and sub-regional cooperation. Taking into account that the fight

against terrorism takes place within the framework of respect for all the principles enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations, our government specifically appeals for your help and cooperation in the following areas:

¶A. Mutual cooperation and legal assistance in order to detect, freeze, and confiscate the funds that finance terrorism and terrorism networks.

B. Access to the sources of technical and financial assistance for institution building to meet the urgent need to combat and eliminate terrorism.

C. Enhancing the readiness and capabilities of our first responders, emergency management teams, intelligence and law enforcement agencies through technical, financial and legal assistance.

D. Exchange of information in order to find, deny safe haven to, and bring to justice any person who supports, facilitates and participates in acts of terrorism.

In the Spirit of joint effort and cooperation let us work together to prevent and effectively defeat terrorism in all its forms and manifestations.

Best regards,

Dahir Rayale Kahin
President, Republic of Somaliland
End text of letter
RANNEBERGER